

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSF-01 NAS-01 ACDA-07
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2973
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 6447

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XV TGEN NO PLOS CI
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ANTARCTIC DEVELOPMENT

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 11927 (B) STATE 304312 (C) OSLO 6273

1. BOTH MFA POLAR ADVISOR BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN AND NANSEN FOUNDATION DIRECTOR SOLLI INFORMED EMBOFF THAT GON HAS DECIDED NOT TO INVOLVE ITSELF WITH ANTARCTIC SYMPOSIUM IN CHILE. CON'S REASONS ARE BOTH POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL AND ARE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY REPORTED FACT THAT UK DOES NOT PLAN TO SEND ANY REPRESENTATIVES, ALTHOUGH BRIAN ROBERTS, NORWEGIANS UNDERSTAND, WILL ATTEND AS A SYMPOSIUM PAID GUEST

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2. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN SAID MFA HAS REVIEWED MATTER AND CONSULTED WITH UK. DECISION WAS THAT POLAR INSTITUTE DIRECTOR GJELSVIK MAY ATTEND AS HE IS A SYMPOSIUM INVITED GUEST AND PRESIDENT OF SCAR, ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT YET DECIDED ON PARTICIPATION. GON'S CHILEAN AMBASSADOR NILSEN WILL NOT BE AUTHORIZED TO ATTEND AND SOLLI WAS TOLD HE WILL NOT GET GON FUNDS FOR TRIP, SO HE PROBABLY WILL NOT GO.

3. SOLLI SAID HE UNDERSTANDS DECISION WAS MADE IN CONVERSATION
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WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND IN COURSE OF WHICH GON GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN ANTARCTIC MATTERS WERE ESTABLISHED. THEY WERE THAT IF EVENT IS RELATED TO GON RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER ANTARCTIC TREATY, OR ITS ARRANGEMENTS, GON REPRESENTATIVES WILL PARTICIPATE. BUT IF EVENT NOT RELATED TO TREATY, AND ESPECIALLY IN CASE OF EVENT TAKING PLACE IN COUNTRY WHERE GOVERNMENT IS UNPOPULAR WITH GON,

GON WILL NOT TAKE PART.

4. COMMENT: THE INCIDENT AND NORWEGIAN REACTION CLEARLY REFLECT
LABOR PARTY SENSITIVITIES IN COMING ELECTION YEAR AND CHILEAN
GOVERNMENT'S UNPOPULARITY IN THE PARTY.
ANDERS

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